

*Acacia glandulifera* (LEGUMINOSAE): DISTRIBUTION AND CHROMOSOME NUMBER.—*Acacia glandulifera* S. Watson is an endemic to limestone hills at upper elevations (1000–2150 m) in the Chihuahuan Desert of northern Mexico. Originally described from material collected by Pringle at Carneros Pass, Coahuila (Watson, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 25:124–163. 1890), this species has long been thought to be restricted to that state (Britton and Rose, N. Amer. Fl. 23:77–136. 1928). Recent interest in the Chihuahuan Desert flora and renewed interest in the genus *Acacia* have led to the accumulation of specimens from E Chihuahua, NE Durango, N Zacatecas, and W Coahuila. As one Zacatecas population (El Salitre, *Shreve 9362*, GH) is only 4 km from San Luis Potosi, we may expect *Acacia glandulifera* in that state also. A list of the specimens examined is available upon request.

Seeds were collected from two populations in July, 1977 (Coahuila: 0.6 km N of Zacatecas on hwy 54, *Parfitt et al. 2320*; Zacatecas: 17 km W of Bonanza on road to Los Cedros, *Parfitt et al. 2325*, both ASU) and were later germinated to acquire root-tips for chromosome determinations. Mitosis was stopped at metaphase in saturated aqueous para-dichlorobenzene for 2–4 hours. Root-tips were fixed in 3 ethanol:1 glacial acetic acid and, after 24 hours, refrigerated. They were hydrolyzed in 1 N HCl at 60°C for 10 minutes and stained in iron-acetocarmine for 3–12 hours. Seedlings from both populations had the chromosome number  $2n = 26$ .

This first count for the species represents the base number for American *Acacia* (Atchison, Amer. J. Bot. 35:651–655. 1948). The apparently closely related *A. neovernicosa* Isely and *A. constricta* Benthham in A. Gray are diploid ( $2n = 26$ ) and tetraploid ( $2n = 52$ ), respectively (Turner and Fearing, Amer. J. Bot. 47:603–608. 1960).

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WHO WAS REDDING OF *Oxytheca reddingianum* M. E. JONES?—When Marcus E. Jones described *Oxytheca reddingianum* (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 9:32.1882), a plant better known as *Eriogonum spergulinum* A. Gray var. *reddingianum* (M. E. Jones) J. T. Howell, he said: “dedicated to Mr. B. B. Redding, to whom we are indebted for much of our knowledge of California botany. Though his interest has been greater and his aid more substantial than that of almost any other man, his services have never yet been recognized. I therefore take this opportunity to dedicate to him this pretty little annual.”

The name B. B. Redding is not a familiar one to California botany in spite of Jones' comments, and thus we present a few brief remarks on this gentleman.

Jones is not noted for his warmth or praise of his fellows (see, for example, his obituary of Edward L. Greene, Contr. W. Bot. 15:25–27. 1929), and we have been unable to discover any direct reason why Jones should have been so lavish in his praise of Redding, especially so to a person who left no (and knowing Jones perhaps that in itself may be the reason) obvious record of contributions to California botany in terms of scientific writings or collections.

Recently we have located a book dealing with him in the California State Library (a very tattered copy is in the Library of Congress). A brief review and portrait of Benjamin Barnard Redding were published by Ella Sterling Cummins (better known as Ella Sterling Mighels) in a book entitled *The story of the files, a review of Californian writers and literature* (San Francisco: Co-operative Printing Co. 460 pp.), issued under the auspices of the World's Fair Commission of California in 1893. The book was published as a result of critical acclaim the author had received from a series of newspaper articles that had appeared over a period of years discussing the newspapers,